

Message Text

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61/15

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INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

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R 312147Z MAY 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USUN NEW YORK 7063

INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 114910

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (3 L I N E S O M I T T E D P A R A 4)

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UN, US, WA

SUBJECT: US AND UN COUNCIL FOR NAMIBIA

REF: A) PRETORIA 1977; B) USUN 1587

1. DEPT APPRECIATES REFTEL REVIEWS OF US POSITION WITH
REGARD TO COUNCIL FOR NAMIBIA.

2. THE COUNCIL HAS BEEN INEFFECTUAL SINCE ITS INCEPTION
AND OUR PARTICIPATION WOULD BE LIKELY TO ATTRACT INCREASED
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CRITICISM OF US POLICIES TOWARD AREA. COUNCIL MEMBERS

FOR MOST PART DEMAND IMMEDIATE INDEPENDENCE FOR NAMIBIA, AND FRUSTRATED BY PROSPECTS, RESORT TO RADICAL RHETORIC US CANNOT SUPPORT. IN JUNE 1973 LUSAKA DECLARATION, FOR EXAMPLE, COUNCIL CALLED FOR END OF SECRETARY GENERAL'S CONTACTS WITH SOUTH AFRICA, TERMINATION OF FOREIGN INVESTMENTS IN NAMIBIA, MATERIAL AID FOR LIBERATION STRUGGLE, AND SECURITY COUNCIL TO TAKE "EFFECTIVE ACTION." US OR WESTERN EUROPEAN PARTICIPATION WOULD NOT BE LIKELY TO TEMPER COUNCIL PROPOSALS OR STATEMENTS. ANY SUCH US ATTEMPT TO MODERATE FROM WITHIN OR TO SPEAK REALISTICALLY WOULD IN ALL LIKELIHOOD BE LABELED NEGATIVE OR OBSTRUCTIONIST, AND US PRESENCE ON COUNCIL WOULD ATTRACT INCREASED CRITICISM OF PERCEIVED INADEQUACIES OF US POLICY TOWARD AREA, OF US INVESTMENT IN NAMIBIA, AS WELL AS OTHER ASPECTS OF AMERICAN PRESENCE IN SOUTHERN AFRICA.

3. AS ADDRESSEES AWARE, GA RESOLUTION 2248 ESTABLISHING COUNCIL IS UNREALISTIC PRESCRIPTION OF COUNCIL ACTIVITY. UNABLE TO EXECUTE THIS MANDATE, COUNCIL IN SIX YEARS OF EXISTENCE HAS LIMITED ITSELF TO ADOPTING HORTATORY RESOLUTIONS AND ISSUING TRAVEL DOCUMENTS TO NAMIBIANS. IN LIGHT INTRACTABLE CIRCUMSTANCES IN NAMIBIA, THERE WOULD SEEM TO BE NO PROSPECT THAT MANDATE COULD BE ALTERED TO PROVIDE COUNCIL WITH MORE USEFUL FUNCTION. GIVEN SOUTH AFRICAN DISTRUST, IT ALSO APPARENT COUNCIL COULD NOT SERVE AS POINT OF CONTACT IN NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN UN AND SOUTH AFRICA IN FORESEEABLE FUTURE. IN SUM, AS LONG AS COUNCIL CONTINUES WITHOUT REALISTIC FUNCTION IT WILL ENGAGE IN FRUITLESS DISCUSSION FROM WHICH US BETTER ABSENT. WITH OR WITHOUT US MEMBERSHIP, COUNCIL IS UNLIKELY TO CONTRIBUTE AT THIS TIME TOWARD THE GOAL, WHICH WE SUPPORT, OF MAJORITY RULE IN NAMIBIA.

4. DESPITE FACT NEW ELEMENTS HAVE ENTERED SOUTHERN AFRICA SITUATION, AND OUR POLICIES THERE WILL COME UNDER REVIEW, WE DO NOT SEE THIS AS APPROPRIATE TIME TO GIVE OTHERS ANY INDICATION THAT CHANGES MIGHT TAKE PLACE, AS SOUNDINGS OF KIND PROPOSED BY USUN MIGHT DO. OF COURSE, WE CONTINUE TO BE VERY INTERESTED IN ANY INFO ON NAMIBIA WHICH USUN PICKS UP IN COURSE NORMAL DIPLOMATIC CONTACTS. CONFIDENTIAL

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WE WOULD WELCOME ANY COMMENTS USUN MAY WISH TO MAKE ON FOREGOING, PENDING USUN COMMENTS ON ABOVE LINE OF REASONING AND FINAL DECISION ON USUN PROPOSAL, DEPT HAS NO OBJECTION IF USUN IN COURSE OF NORMAL BUSINESS CAN GAIN CLEARER IMPRESSION OF CURRENT SCANDINAVIAN AND UK VIEWS CONCERNING THE COUNCIL. HOWEVER, WE DO NOT WISH TO RAISE SUBJECT OF U.S. MEMBERSHIP ON COUNCIL AT THIS TIME. KISSINGER

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